

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flatbed optical scanner comprising:
an inclined platen having a higher end portion and a lower end portion; and
a scanner carriage displaceable between said higher end portion and said lower end portion of said inclined platen.
2. The scanner of claim 1 wherein said scanner carriage is displaceable along a scan path extending parallel to said inclined platen.
3. The scanner of claim 2 wherein said scan path is positioned below said inclined platen.
4. The scanner of claim 1 wherein said scanner carriage is reciprocally displaceable between said higher end portion and said lower end portion of said inclined platen.
5. The scanner of claim 1 further comprising a scanner cover having a cover hinge axis extending transversely of a displacement direction of said scanner carriage.
6. The scanner of claim 1 further comprising a housing having a first upright face portion positioned proximate said lower end portion of said inclined platen, said first face portion comprising at least one scanner control surface mounted thereon.

7. The scanner of claim 6 further comprising a scanner cover having a cover hinge axis extending transversely of a displacement direction of said scanner carriage.

8. The scanner of claim 7 wherein said scanner hinge axis is positioned proximate said higher end portion of said scanner platen.

9. A flatbed optical scanner comprising:

means for supporting a document in an inclined relationship with a horizontal plane and in a transparent relationship with an imaging light source positioned below the document;

means for displacing said imaging light source between a relatively lower position and a relatively higher position along an inclined displacement path.

10. A method of scanning a document comprising:

placing the document on a platen;

displacing a scanner carriage along an inclined displacement path adjacent the platen between relatively higher and lower positions on said path.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein placing the document on a platen comprises placing the document on an inclined platen.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein displacing a scanner carriage along an inclined displacement path comprises displacing the scanner carriage along a displacement path extending parallel to the inclined platen.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising controlling the scanner from control surfaces mounted on a smallest face portion of the scanner housing.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising opening a scanner cover hinged along an axis extending transversely of the displacement path.

15. A method of scanning a document comprising:

facing a front end portion of a flatbed scanner;

rotating a scanner cover hinged at a rear end portion of the scanner;

placing the document on an inclined platen having a lower end at the front end portion of the scanner;

registering an edge portion of the document with a registration surface positioned proximate the lower end of the platen.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising causing a scanner carriage to move from a lower position to a higher position along a displacement path below the inclined platen.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising engaging a control surface mounted on a front face portion of the scanner.